

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A container for holding food items at an elevated temperature and humidity, the container comprising:

at least one opening ~~through which items are moved between~~ provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior and the exterior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to direct an air stream across the opening, the duct system comprising a plurality of air returns;

wherein at least one of the air returns is positioned ~~adjacent to the opening and receives to receive~~ at least a portion of the air stream, ~~the portion of the air stream forming stream so that a barrier is formed~~ between the interior of the container and ~~the an~~ exterior environment; and

wherein the container is configured so that the food items are configured to be positioned substantially between at least another one of the air returns and the opening, the another one of the air returns being configured to receive another portion of the air stream.

20. (Original) The container according to claim 19, wherein the container is portable.

21. (Original) The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

22. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 21, wherein the ~~another portion of the air stream is used to maintain the temperature and/or humidity substantially constant~~ heat and/or humidify the interior of the container.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
at least one opening ~~through~~ which provides access to move food items are moved into and/or out of the container;
an air curtain ~~provided~~ positioned over the opening to form a barrier between ~~an~~ the interior ~~environment~~ of the container and an exterior environment, the interior of the container being heated; and
a first side positioned substantially opposite the opening, the first side comprising at least one air return which is configured to receive a portion of the air from the air ~~curtain~~ curtain;
wherein a majority of air received by the at least one air return in the first side comes from the air curtain.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air in the air curtain through the container.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Currently Amended) The container according to ~~claim 27~~, claim 24, wherein the ~~first side~~ at least one opening is substantially planar.
29. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.
- 30-41. (Cancelled)
42. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a fan which is used to move the air stream through the duct system.
43. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the another one of the air returns is positioned on a side of the container which is at least substantially opposite the opening.

44. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 19, ~~comprising~~ wherein the air stream passes over a water source ~~which is used~~ to humidify the air stream.

45. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system which is used to control the humidity of the interior of the container.

46. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a baffle positioned in the duct system.

47. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 46, wherein the air stream passes through the baffle.

48. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 46, wherein the baffle is positioned adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air stream.

49. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 19, wherein the air stream is ~~heated~~ used to humidify the interior of the container.

50. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 24, wherein the container is configured so that the food items are positioned substantially between the at least one air return and the at least one opening.

51. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 24, ~~comprising~~ wherein air used to form the air curtain passes over a water source ~~which is used~~ to humidify the air ~~in the air curtain~~.

52. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system which is used to control the humidity of the interior ~~environment~~ of the container.

53. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 24, comprising a duct system ~~through which the air in~~ directs air over the opening to form the air curtain ~~moves~~ and a baffle positioned in the duct system.

54. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 53, wherein the air ~~is~~ used to form the air curtain passes through the baffle.

55. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 53, wherein the baffle is positioned adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air ~~is~~ used to form the air curtain.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items.

58. (New) The container according to claim 57, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

59. (New) The container according to claim 57, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

60. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in a single loop in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that air travels from the air curtain through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items to at least one opening in the duct system.

61. (New) The container according to claim 60, wherein the air stream travels in a circular loop.

62. (New) The container according to claim 60, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

63. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in a single loop in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items.

64. (New) The container according to claim 63, wherein the air stream travels in a circular loop.

65. (New) The container according to claim 63, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

66. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items;

wherein a majority of the air that travels through the at least one opening in the duct system travels between the air curtain and the at least one opening in the duct system.

67. (New) The container according to claim 66, wherein the air stream travels in a circular loop.

68. (New) The container according to claim 66, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.

69. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container, the interior of the container being heated and humidified; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in the container, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items;

wherein the air stream passes over a water source which humidifies the air stream.

70. (New) The container according to claim 69, wherein the speed of the air stream as it passes over the water source is less than the speed of the air in the air curtain.

71. (New) The container according to claim 69, wherein the air stream impacts a baffle positioned over the water source.

72. (New) The container according to claim 69, wherein the water source is heated.

73. (New) A container comprising:

at least one opening which provides access to move food items into and/or out of the interior of the container; and

a duct system configured to circulate an air stream in the container, the air stream being heated and humidified, the duct system being configured to direct at least a portion of the air stream across the opening to form an air curtain;

wherein the container is configured so that a portion of the air stream travels between the air curtain and at least one opening in the duct system through the interior of the container adjacent to the food items;

wherein the air stream is the primary source of heat and humidity imparted to the food items.

74. (New) The container according to claim 73, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and humidity of the interior of the container.

75. (New) The container according to claim 73, wherein the at least one opening in the duct system is positioned at least substantially opposite the at least one opening which provides access to the interior of the container.